



MedCities Annual Seminar 2023
Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina) and online 22- 23 November 2023

The event will count with interpretation English-French-Arabic

Reversing biodiversity loss in urban environments in a context of climate crisis: ecosystem approach and nature based solutions

Rationale and context

The Mediterranean region has witnessed dramatic changes in recent years. The unprecedented growth in population has led to major urbanisation, especially in coastal areas. The cumulative impacts of overexploitation, population, governance and climate change exerted pressures on Mediterranean coastal and marine areas are leading to undermine biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and threatening the Mediterranean lifestyle. Cities are at the forefront of this crisis.

As a reaction to this grave global situation, The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15 2022) ended with a landmark agreement to guide global action on nature. The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect indigenous rights. In this line, the use of Nature based Solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based management (EBM) approaches is becoming crucial. If aiming to attain a healthy and resilience Mediterranean they need to be applied both, inside and outside protected areas, including urban territories. There is a growing number of transferable experiences and tools for the application of integrated governance and management approaches in the case of both cities and protected areas. This would be the experience of Sfax (Tunisia) and Tyre (Lebanon) in their participation in the project [ENSERES “ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas”](#)¹. Sharing experiences alike will help identifying adaptable, transferable solutions to apply at local level to build resilience at Mediterranean scale. To sustain this approach in time it is essential to integrate it in the work plan of existing networks and to reinforce the connections among them. With this aim, MedCities and the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPA) managers’ network, MedPAN, will share the recently agreed Memorandum of Understanding to build cooperation and align positions in relevant policy processes.

Objective of the seminar:

- Highlighting the collaborative successes achieved among protected area and city stakeholders for enhancing socio-ecological resilience levels along the Mediterranean coast.
- Sharing local transferable experiences in applying NbS and EBM experiences to blue and green infrastructure.
- Identifying MedCities members’ priorities to address through the Working Groups on “Coastal cities” and “Planning green cities”.

¹ ENSERES is an initiative funded by the European Union, in the frame of the ENI CBC MED Cooperation Programme. It aims at transferring solutions across the Mediterranean shores to respond to the growing needs of coastal cities and protected area stakeholders to manage these areas in a sustainable way.



Programme

Wednesday 22 nd of November		
09:00	Opening and welcome addresses	Representative of Sarajevo Municipality Mr. Josep Canals-Molina, MedCités Secretary General
09:15	MedCités network engagement in increasing resilience through protecting blue and green infrastructure	Mr. Oriol Barba, Director, MedCités
09:40	Biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas; findings of the project ENSERES	Mr. Christoph Schröder, ENSERES project manager, ETC-UMA
10:00	Session 1: The benefit of bridging cities and protected areas, governance solutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MedPAN experience and the case of Cap d'Agde, France. By Mr. Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, director of the MPA of Cap d'Agde, MedPAN Board Member.• Governance framework and action at a municipal marine protected area, Tyre, Lebanon. By Mr. Ali Badreddine, Manager, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (<i>online</i>).• Governance of Marseille's coastal and maritime areas: success stories and questions about the resilience of the governance system. By Mr. Jean-Charles Lardic, Deputy to the Services General Director, Ville de Marseille.• Collaborating with NGOs, ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre, Glyfada, Greece. By Mr. Sokratis Zachos, Secretary General, Municipality of Glyfada (<i>Tbc</i>).• Management Implications at a Protected, Peri-Urban, Salt Lake Ecosystem: Larnaca's Salt Lakes, Cyprus. By Mr. Andreas Karakatsanis, Chief Engineer, Director of Technical Services, Municipality of Larnaca.	
10:45	Questions and interventions by onsite and online participants	
11:15	Coffee break	
11:45	Session 2: Cities' solutions to increase resilience in a biodiversity crisis. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General context and the experience of the Life A_GreeNet project for the climate adaption of Adriatic coastal cities, Ancona, Italy. By Mr. Fabio Vallarola, Head of Environment Department, Municipality of Ancona.• Protection and sustainable management of Sète lido in Marseillan, France. By Mr. Patrick Raemot, Directeur Général Délégué, Sète agglomération méditerranéenne (<i>online</i>).• Data-driven policy making for the management of the Düden Waterfall area, Antalya, Turkey. By Ms. Zeynep Çiftçi, Head of Foreign Affairs, Metropolitan Municipality of Antalya.• Monitoring water pollution and enhancing marine diversity through collaboration with research institutes, Mersin, Turkey. By Mr. Doğukan Uyan, Head of Water and Sewerage Administration, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality• Joining forces to address marine pollution in the fishing port of Sfax, Tunisia. By Municipality of Sfax (<i>online, Tbc</i>)	
12:30	Questions and interventions by onsite and online participants	

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13:00	Concluding intervention: The metropolitan dimension of urban resilience to climate and biodiversity crisis. By Mrs. Mrs. Clare Hart, Vice-president of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole and Municipal Councillor of Montpellier, MedCities	
13:15	The way ahead : Bridging networks through the MoU between MedCities and MedPAN	Mr. Josep Canals Molina, Secretary General, MedCities Mr. Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, director of the MPA of Cap d'Agd, MedPAN Board member
13:30	Wrap up, conclusions and closing	Ms. Chantal Menard, Moderator Mr. Oriol Barba, Director MedCities
13:45 14:45	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:45 16:30	Sarajevo on site visit	
Thursday 23rd of November		
09:00 13:00	Ordinary General Assembly 2023	Separated agenda engaging 73 members and observers.
13:00 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 16:00	Study visit on ecosystem approach and nature based solutions in the city of Sarajevo	
	Departure from Sarajevo	

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